

This is a man who had been held under the most extraordinary security conditions. Dr. Lee, a sixty-year old scientist at the time, was prohibited from outside contact, except for his immediate family, and shackled at the wrists, waist and ankles on the occasions in which he was allowed to leave his cell.

In an impassioned letter about the Wen Ho Lee case, one of my constituents expressed:

As a Chinese American . . . I ask no more than what is due to every citizen of this country, namely, to be treated with respect and dignity. I resent those who would question the loyalty of Chinese Americans any time a particular Chinese American is suspected of an egregious act. In their haste to decry the alleged espionage by an individual, not only are these public officials and said media guilty of a rush to judgment but of tarring with a broad brush other American citizens who are guilty of nothing else other than having the same ethnicity of the suspect.

Instances like the Wen Ho Lee case engender a sense of disunity and division within the community, which undermines the basic tenets on which this nation was founded.

In another instance of how poisoned this atmosphere has become, Oregon U.S. Representative DAVID WU was recently nearly denied entry into the Department of Energy building in Washington, DC because guards questioned whether he was an American citizen.

After Representative WU and an aide arrived, a guard refused to recognize his Congressional identification and asked three times whether the two were U.S. citizens.

Eventually, the two were allowed entry by a supervisor but this incident indicates the web of suspicion surrounding all Asian Americans, and even those that are elected to Congress.

Following the incident, Representative WU wrote U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham:

I am disturbed that yesterday's incident is the tip of an iceberg, an indicator of a much larger problem at DOE which maybe damaging our national security.

Representative WU has asked Secretary Abraham to review employment practices and operating procedures to prevent future discrimination against employees of Asian descent. I join with Representative WU in this important request.

Lastly, in recent months, a distinguished public servant currently the Secretary of Labor, has been harshly and unfairly attacked and her loyalty questioned because, as a Chinese-American, she has knowledge of China, has met with Chinese business people, citizens, and leaders.

This is yet another case in which ethnic background appears to be sufficient grounds to question someone's patriotism, someone's business activities, and in this case, even the conduct of Elaine Chao's husband as a U.S. Senator.

Another troubling incident involves the case of Matt Fong, a former Treasurer of the State of California and a former Lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, who has been nominated as Under Secretary of the Army and has had his loyalty to our nation questioned.

As it transpires, Mr. Fong unknowingly accepted some funds which he should not have in order to retire debt from his 1994 campaign for California treasurer from Ted Sioeng, an Indonesian businessman.

But when Mr. Fong discovered that some of these funds came from Sioeng's personal account, he immediately returned the money. There were legitimate questions raised about the Sioeng donation but Matt Fong did the right thing when he found out: He returned the money.

I am sad to say that questionable campaign contributions of this sort occur more often than they should, from people of all ethnicities and backgrounds. That is one of the reasons why campaign finance reform is so essential.

So why in this case are there some who still raise questions about Mr. Fong's loyalty, suggesting that because of this contribution, which some believe may have originated with the Chinese government, Mr. Fong may represent a security risk?

There is no evidence that the funds to Mr. Fong originated with the Chinese government, or that the contribution represents an effort by the Chinese government to "buy" Mr. Fong. But because of Mr. Fong's ethnicity, just leveling the allegation creates an environment of suspicion which by its nature is difficult to refute.

All is insinuation, and I am loath to say that it appears that it can only be for one reason why these questions have been raised: Mr. Fong's ethnicity.

As Karen Narasaki, President and Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium put it:

Fong's mother served as California Secretary of State for many years and Fong himself has served his country, both in the Air Force and as California State Treasurer. To question his loyalty to the U.S. is the worst sort of racial profiling.

I am disappointed that there are many who appear to believe that it is still acceptable to attack Asian Americans. This is completely unacceptable in America.

All Americans should be highly offended by the negative stereotypes and media coverage of Asian-Americans who have made profound contributions to our nation.

How can we question the loyalty of any American because of his or her race or ethnic background? To put it simply, this is un-American and must be stopped.

We all need to work together to raise awareness about the positive contribu-

tions all Asian Americans have made to every aspect of life here in the United States, and of the sacrifices they have made in defense of this country.

We must redouble our efforts to eliminate racial stereotypes that strike at the heart of American values and shame us all.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 28, 1994 in Las Vegas, NV. A gay man, Scott Grundy, 30, was shot to death. Aaron Vandaele, 19, was charged with murder, robbery, burglary, and grand larceny after he allegedly said he planned to visit a gay bar to rob a homosexual.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 20, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,641,023,159,870.17, five trillion, six hundred forty-one billion, twenty-three million, one hundred fifty-nine thousand, eight hundred seventy dollars and seventeen cents.

One year ago, June 20, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,653,560,000,000, five trillion, six hundred fifty-three billion, five hundred sixty million.

Five years ago, June 20, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,108,536,000,000, five trillion, one hundred eight billion, five hundred thirty-six million.

Ten years ago, June 20, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,493,082,000,000, three trillion, four hundred ninety-three billion, eighty-two million.

Fifteen years ago, June 20, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,039,809,000,000, Two trillion, thirty-nine billion, eight hundred nine million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,601,214,159,870.17, three trillion, six hundred one billion, two hundred fourteen million, one hundred fifty-nine thousand, eight hundred seventy dollars and seventeen cents during the past 15 years.